



Rochester's Committee on Urban Design & Environment · 2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 100 · Rochester, MN 55904

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The Committee on Urban Design and Environment (CUDE) met at 11:30 AM on Thursday, November 19, 2009 in Room 320 City Hall, Rochester, MN.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dick Abraham, Nora Dooley, Gail Eadie, Mark Engel, Sandi Goslee, Mark Jasmin, Jim Judisch, Lindsey Meek, Dave Petersen, Terry Spaeth, Jean Weathers-Lowin

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Stephan Lewis, Roger Nelson, Zach Thaler,

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Terry Adkins, Randy Staver, Mike Podulke, Tony Knauer, Doug Nelson, Andy Masterpole, Dave Morrill, Hollybeth Anderson, Bari Amadio, Audrey Betcher, Nate Johnson, Craig Ruhland, David Dahlquist

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

The meeting started at 11:30.

Ms. Eadie motion/Ms. Dooley second to approve the September and October minutes. Unanimous approval.

#### **Referral Notices**

Mr. Spaeth said he would talk with the developers of the GH Holdings project in downtown Rochester about making a presentation at the December meeting.

#### **Notes of Appreciation**

None

#### **CUDE Awards**

Ms. Goslee stated that we moved our awards ceremony to late February, but we still have no projects that have been brought forth to consider. We need to either postpone the awards or skip them this year as there is not enough time or need to put this together for February. Mr. Petersen suggested we consider a joint awards ceremony in May with the HPC; the motion was seconded and approved, Ms. Eadie voting nay. We will discuss this further in December.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Ethics Board Opinion**

Mr. Adkins provided a background introduction to the item, stating that concerns had been raised about Council members expressing opinions at City Planning and Zoning Commission meetings which served to create bias and prejudice when voting on that item at the City Council meetings. The City's Ethics Board, therefore, approved an opinion stating that members of the City Council or any City board or commission must not vote on any quasi-judicial item on which they stated a previous public opinion. This opinion does affect the CPZC rep for CUDE as a number of items we discuss are voted on in a quasi-judicial fashion at the CPZC. Mr. Adkins went on to discuss a lawsuit involving a Minneapolis City Council member in which this was the argument; he did say, however, that these board/council members could attend, listen, and ask non-leading questions.

Mr. Jasmin stated that he believes Staff provides more information than the CPZC rep, so he sees no problem in amending CUDE's bylaws to eliminate that representative. Mr. Judisch stated that he sees value

in the flow of information from CUDE to the CPZC; Mr. Adkins said that can really put the CPZC rep on thin ice. He acknowledged that a CPZC rep could still listen and ask questions as long as they don't indicate their opinion.

Mr. Spaeth asked if the CPZC rep could be an ex-officio member (non-voting). Mr. Adkins stated that might be helpful if they're not voting, but they might still public state something they shouldn't.

Ms. Goslee stated that these issues are why she drafted a memo to the CPZC asking them if they'd like CUDE to change their bylaws to no longer require a CPZC member. The CPZC stated that they'd like to avoid potential conflicts and asked we change our bylaws. Ms. Meek stated that the letters we send are sufficient; Mr. Engel agreed and said this wouldn't mean CPZC members couldn't come and listen in on a meeting if they so desire.

Ms. Goslee will draft a bylaws amendment for our December meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Street Transit Project**

Mr. Masterpole began the presentation. He invited the RDA's Avenue of the Arts committee to attend this presentation. The planning for the project began in October 2008 and covers the stretch of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The project includes streetscape, traffic solutions, lighting, and staging of buses. The Mayo Clinic has been a big player in this. Mr. Jasmin asked if the City has looked at any multi-modal uses off of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mr. Knauer stated that 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is the focus now, but that these solutions could eventually expand down to 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW. He stated that the City is now staggering the City buses to help with Mayo traffic; 85% of all city bus origin/destinations are at Mayo.

Mr. Knauer went on to describe a ridership survey that helped give the City direction; riders want things such as shelters, heated shelters, and real-time information on bus arrival. The goal is to have an efficient, vital transit hub. The project will include street reconstruction, water main construction, new signals, five new shelters, streetscaping, and new sidewalk. The plan is for a 2010 construction.

Mr. Ruhland presented a photo inventory of the corridor. The design goals for the streetscape include unique transit identity, material integrity, unified corridor, functional and safe operation, and a "Welcome to Rochester" feel. A median from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues would be landscaped and boulevard trees would be preserved. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues, there is not enough room for a median, but the road will be narrowed 3' so the sidewalk can be widened. There will be two new shelters on the north and three on the south. Decorative crosswalks, seating adjacent to shelters, ornamental railings, and planters would all be part of this. The shelters would include materials representative of Rochester and include infrared heaters.

Discussion ensued regarding advertising and newspaper stands. The project is funded and the design is complete.

Mr. Dahlquist presented the artwork component of this project. His idea is to pull in the concept of native prairie species into the shelter designs. The rear and side glass shelter panels would have a particular native prairie species etched into; one species at each shelter. These would be internally lit with colored LED; the colors can change as desired. The same species would be incorporated into the stone tiles that form the structure of the shelter. By having a different species for each shelter, a wayfinding opportunity is created – the "sumac bus stop". The plants would also be reflected in the railing patterns.

**Adjourn – 1:05. Next meeting will be at 11:30 on December 17<sup>th</sup> in Room 104 City Hall.**